

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

20 MAR 1975

Mr. James F. Hyde  
Acting Assistant Director for  
Legislative Reference  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Hyde:

Enclosed are proposed reports to Chairman Stennis, Senate Committee on Armed Services, in response to requests for our recommendations on the following legislation: S. 244, a bill to amend the National Security Act of 1947 to clarify certain provisions of that Act regarding activities of the Central Intelligence Agency; S. 99, to establish a Joint Committee on National Security; and S. Res. 6, to establish a Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Operations and Activities.

Advice is requested as to whether there is any objection to the submission of these reports from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

George L. Cary  
Legislative Counsel

Enclosures

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee, w/encls  
1 - S. 244 file  
1 - S. 99 file  
1 - S. Res. 6 file  
1 - OMB Liaison file  
1 - Chrono

OLC:DFM:cg (19 Mar 75)

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Honorable John C. Stennis, Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your request for our recommendations on S. 99, which would establish a Joint Committee on National Security.

The proposed Joint Committee would be composed of twenty-five members, including the Senate and House leadership, appropriate committee leadership, and six other members of Congress as designated by the leadership. The function of the Joint Committee would be to study and review: (a) the activities, goals, and strategies of the National Security Council; (b) whether the foreign, domestic, and military policies of the United States are appropriately integrated in furtherance of national security; (c) whether the activities, charters, and organizations of U. S. intelligence agencies are consistent with national security requirements; and (d) Government classification and declassification practices, and to make recommendations regarding these practices, if warranted.

As you know, I have consistently taken the position that the manner in which congressional oversight of this Agency is exercised is a matter for Congress itself to determine, but I do note that to the extent S. 99 involves a review of CIA activities, it overlaps the oversight now being performed by several committees of both houses, including the Subcommittee on Central Intelligence which you chair. Consistent with the responsibility imposed upon me by the National Security Act of 1947, I do want to urge that the Congress, in effecting any change in oversight, take the necessary steps to protect intelligence sources and methods from

unauthorized disclosure. I believe limiting oversight to the minimum number of committees required to effectively conduct it will substantially contribute to the protection of those sources and methods.

The Office of Management and Budget advises there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of W. E. Colby.

W. E. Colby  
Director

STATINTL